

Table 3 Status Designations of Conservation Concern for California birds from Various State, Regional, Continental, and Global Assessments^a

Taxon	BSSC 2002 ^b	BSSC 1992 ^c	BSSC 1978 ^d	T & E ^e	Fully Protected ^f	Natural Heritage ^g	USFWS 1995 ^h	WatchList 1996 ⁱ	Blue List 1986 ^j	IUCN 2000 ^k
Common loon (<i>Gavia immer</i>)	EX	X	1	—	—	1	X	—	—	—
“Western” grebe (<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i> or <i>A. clarkii</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SC	—
Black-footed albatross (<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	VU
Short-tailed albatross	FNS	—	—	FE	—	?	—	—	—	VU
Pink-footed shearwater (<i>Puffinus creatopus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	VU
Buller’s shearwater (<i>P. bulleri</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	VU
Black-vented shearwater (<i>P. opisthomelas</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	VU
Fork-tailed storm-petrel	1	X	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ashy storm-petrel	2	X	3	—	—	2	X	2	—	LR
Black storm-petrel	3	X	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
American white pelican	1	X	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
California brown pelican (<i>Pelicanus</i> <i>occidentalis californicus</i>)	—	—	—	SE, FE	X	1/2	—	—	—	—
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax</i> <i>auritus</i>)	—	X	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
American bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>)	3	—	—	—	—	3	X	3	BL	—
Least bittern	3	X	3	—	—	1	X	—	BL	—
Reddish egret (<i>Egretta rufescens</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	2	SC	—
Black-crowned night-heron (<i>Nycticorax</i> <i>nycticorax</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
White-faced ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)	—	X	1	—	—	1	X	—	—	—
Wood stork	1	X	—	—	—	?	—	—	—	—
California condor (<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>)	—	—	—	SE, FE	X	1	—	—	—	CR
Fulvous whistling-duck	1	X	1	—	—	1/3	—	—	SC	—
Tule greater white-fronted goose	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aleutian Canada goose (<i>B. c. leucopareia</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	2N	—	—	—	—

Taxon	BSSC 2002 ^b	BSSC 1992 ^c	BSSC 1978 ^d	T & E ^e	Fully Protected ^f	Natural Heritage ^g	USFWS 1995 ^h	WatchList 1996 ⁱ	Blue List 1986 ^j	IUCN 2000 ^k
Brant	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trumpeter swan (<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>)	—	—	—	—	X		x	—	—	—
Wood Duck (<i>Aix sponsa</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Canvasback (<i>Aythya valisineria</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	2?	—	—	SC	—
Redhead	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harlequin duck	1	X	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Barrow's Goldeneye	EX	X	3	—	—	? N	—	—	—	—
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	—	X	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
White-tailed kite (<i>Elanus leucurus</i>)	—	—	—	—	X	3	X	—	—	—
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	—	—	—	SE, FT	X	2	—	—	—	—
Northern harrier	2	X	2	—	—	3	—	—	BL	—
Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	3	—	—	BL	—
Cooper's Hawk (<i>A. cooperii</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	3	—	—	BL	—
Northern goshawk	—	X	3	—	—	3	X	—	—	—
Harris's hawk	2	X	1	—	—	H	—	—	—	—
Red-shouldered hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	BL	—
Swainson's Hawk (<i>B. swainsoni</i>)	—	—	1	ST	—	2	—	—	SC	—
Ferruginous hawk (<i>B. regalis</i>)	—	X	—	—	—	—	X	—	SC	LR
Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	—	X	3	—	X	3	—	—	—	—
Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)	—	X	1	—	—	3	—	—	SC	—
American peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i> <i>anatum</i>)	—	—	—	SE	X	2B, ?N	—	—	—	—
Prairie falcon	3	X	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Ruffed Grouse (<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater sage-grouse	2	X	3	—	—	3	—	—	SC	—
Mount Pinos blue grouse	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-tailed grouse	EX	X	1	—	—	EX	—	—	SC	—
Catalina California quail	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow rail	2	X	1	—	—	1/2	X	—	—	—
Black rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	1	—	LR

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California black rail (<i>L. j. coturniculus</i>)	—	—	—	ST	X	1	—	—	—	—
Clapper rail (<i>Rallus longirostris</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SC	—
California clapper rail (<i>R. l. obsoletus</i>)	—	—	—	SE, FE	X	1	—	—	—	—
Light-footed clapper rail (<i>R. l. levipes</i>)	—	—	—	SE, FE	X	1	—	—	—	—
Yuma clapper rail (<i>R. l. yumanesis</i>)	—	—	—	ST, FE	X	1	—	—	—	—
Sandhill crane (<i>Grus canadensis</i>)	—	—	3	—	—	?	—	—	—	—
Lesser sandhill crane	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater sandhill crane (<i>G. c. tabida</i>)	—	—	—	ST	X	2	—	—	—	—
Snowy plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>)	—	X	2	—	—	2	x	—	SC	—
Western snowy plover (<i>C. a. nivosus</i>) (coastal population)	FNS	—	—	FT	—	—	—	—	—	—
Snowy plover (interior population)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountain plover	1	X	—	—	—	1/2N	X	1	—	VU
Black oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Long-billed curlew (<i>Numenius americanus</i>)	—	X	—	—	—	2	X	2	SC	LR
Red knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Laughing gull (<i>Larus atricilla</i>)	—	X	1	—	—	H	—	—	—	—
Heermann's gull (<i>L. heermanni</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	LR
California gull (<i>L. californicus</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Gull-billed tern	1	X	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Royal tern	3	—	—	—	—	?	—	—	—	—
Elegant tern	3	X	3	—	—	1	X	—	—	LR
California least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>)	—	—	—	SE, FE	X	2/3B	—	—	—	—
Black tern	3	X	—	—	—	2	x	3	BL	—
Black skimmer	3	X	3	—	—	1/3	—	—	—	—
Marbled murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>)	—	—	3	SE, FT	—	1	—	—	—	VU
Xantus's murrelet	2	X	—	—	—	3	X	2	—	VU
Craveri's murrelet (<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	VU
Cassin's auklet	2	—	—	—	—	?	—	—	—	—
Rhinoceros auklet (<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—

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Tufted puffin	1	X	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Band-tailed pigeon (<i>Columba fasciata</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Common ground-dove (<i>Columbina passerina</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—
Yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	3	BL	—
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (<i>C. a. occidentalis</i>)	—	—	—	SE	—	1	—	—	—	—
Barn owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SC	—
Elf owl (<i>Micrathene whitneyi</i>)	—	—	—	SE	—	1	—	—	—	—
Burrowing owl	1	X	2	—	—	2	X	—	SC	—
Spotted owl (<i>Stix occidentalis</i>)	—	—	2	—	—	3	X	—	BL	LR
Northern spotted owl	FNS	—	—	FT	—	2	—	—	—	—
California spotted owl	3	X	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Great gray owl (<i>Strix nebulosa</i>)	—	—	—	SE	—	1	—	—	—	—
Long-eared owl	2	X	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Short-eared owl	2	X	2	—	—	3	X	3	BL	—
Lesser nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Common nighthawk (<i>Chordeiles minor</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	BL	—
Common poorwill (<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	2/3	—	—	—	—
Black Swift (<i>Cypseloides niger</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	2	X	2	—	—
Vaux's swift	3	X	—	—	—	3	X	—	—	—
Costa's hummingbird (<i>Calypte costae</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—
Broad-tailed hummingbird (<i>Selasphorus platycerus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Rufous hummingbird (<i>S. rufus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	1/2	X	3	—	—
Allen's hummingbird (<i>S. sasin</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	2	—	—
Belted kingfisher (<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Lewis's woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	2/3	X	—	—	—
Gila woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes uropygialis</i>)	—	—	2	SE	—	1/2	X	—	—	—
Williamson's sapsucker (<i>S. thyroideus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Red-naped sapsucker (<i>S. nuchalis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Red-breasted sapsucker (<i>S. ruber</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—

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Hairy woodpecker (<i>Picoides villosus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	SC	—
Black-backed woodpecker (<i>Picoides arcticus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Gilded flicker (<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>)	—	—	1	SE	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pileated woodpecker (<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Olive-sided flycatcher	2	—	—	—	—	—	x	3	—	—
Western wood-pewee (<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Vermilion flycatcher	3	X	1	—	—	2/3	(X)	—	—	—
Willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii</i>)	—	—	1	SE	—	1/2	—	—	SC	—
Southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>E. t. extimus</i>)	—	—	—	FE	—	1	—	—	—	—
Gray flycatcher (<i>E. wrightii</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—
Pacific-slope flycatcher (<i>E. difficilis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—
Brown-crested flycatcher (<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	2/3	—	—	—	—
Eastern kingbird (<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Loggerhead shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	—	X	—	—	—	—	x	3	BL	—
Island loggerhead shrike	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
San Clemente loggerhead shrike	FNS	—	—	FE	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	x	2	SC	—
Least Bell's vireo (<i>V. b. pusillus</i>)	—	—	—	SE, FE	—	2B	—	—	—	—
Arizona Bell's vireo (<i>V. b. arizonae</i>)	—	—	1	SE	—	1	—	—	—	—
Gray vireo	1	X	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Catalina Hutton's vireo	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gray jay (<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Island scrub-jay (<i>Aphelocoma insularis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	LR
Eagle Mountain western scrub-jay (<i>Aphelocoma californica cana</i>)	—	X	—	—	—	1/2	—	—	—	—
California horned lark	3	X	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Purple martin	1	X	2	—	—	3	—	—	SC	—
Bank swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	—	—	2	ST	—	2/3	—	—	—	—
Black-capped chickadee (<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
San Diego cactus wren	1	X	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

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Bewick's wren (<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—
San Clemente Bewick's wren	EX	—	—	—	—	?	—	—	—	—
Clark's marsh wren	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
California gnatcatcher (<i>Poliophtila californica</i>)	—	X	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Alta California gnatcatcher	FNS	—	—	FT	—	2	—	—	—	—
Black-tailed gnatcatcher (<i>P. melanura</i>)	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
California Swainson's thrush	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bendire's thrasher	1	X	3	—	—	3	X	2	—	—
California thrasher (<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	—	—	—
Crissal thrasher	1	X	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Le Conte's thrasher (<i>T. lecontei</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	3	—	2	—	—
Le Conte's thrasher (San Joaquin population)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American pipit (<i>Anthus rubescens</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Virginia's warbler (<i>Vermivora virginiae</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	2/3	—	—	—	—
Lucy's warbler	3	—	—	—	—	2/3	X	2	—	—
Yellow warbler	—	X	2	—	—	2	—	—	SC	—
Morcom's yellow warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia morcomi</i>)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sonora yellow warbler	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hermit warbler (<i>Dendroica occidentalis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3?	X	2	—	—
Common yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
San Francisco common yellowthroat	1	X	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Yellow-breasted chat	3	X	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Hepatic tanager (<i>Piranga flava</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Summer tanager	1	X	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
San Clemente spotted towhee	1	X	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Inyo California towhee (<i>Pipilo crissalis eremophilus</i>)	—	—	—	SE, FT	—	1	—	—	—	—
Abert's towhee (<i>P. aberti</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	2?	—	—	—	—
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>)	—	X	—	—	—	2/3	—	—	—	—

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Santa Cruz Is. rufous-crowned sparrow	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brewer's sparrow (<i>Spizella breweri</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	X	3	—	—
Black-chinned sparrow (<i>S. atrogularis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3		3	—	—
Oregon vesper sparrow (wintering)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oregon vesper sparrow (breeding)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lark sparrow (<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	3	—	—
Sage sparrow (<i>Amphispiza belli</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	X	3	—	—
Bell's sage sparrow (<i>A. b. belli</i>)	—	X	—	—	—	2?	—	—	—	—
San Clementae sage sparrow	FNS	—	—	FT	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bryant's savannah sparrow	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Belding's savannah sparrow (<i>Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi</i>)	—	—	—	SE	—	3	—	—	—	—
Large-billed savannah sparrow	2	X	—	—	—	2?	—	—	—	—
Grasshopper sparrow	2	—	—	—	—	2	X	3	BL	—
song sparrow ("Modesto" population)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suisun song sparrow	3	X	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Samuel's song sparrow	2	X	—	—	—	2?	—	—	—	—
Alameda song sparrow	1	X	—	—	—	2?	—	—	—	—
Channel Island song sparrow	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Santa Barbara song sparrow	EX	—	—	—	—	?	—	—	—	—
Gray-headed junco (<i>Junco hyemalis caniceps</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Northern cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)	—	X	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kern red-winged blackbird	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tricolored blackbird	1	X	—	—	—	2	X	—	—	—
Yellow-headed blackbird	2	—	—	—	—	—		3	—	—
Lawrence's goldfinch (<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	3	X	1	—	—

^a Conservation status designations are provided for comparison of various widely cited assessments at various scales up to the global level. Although the comparison to other assessment is not exhaustive, this provides a framework for evaluation of the current status rankings of California's BSSC.

^b Species, subspecies, and distinct populations on the draft 2002 list of Bird Species of Special Concern in California (Table 1). Numbered designations indicate priority levels within the list (1, 2, or 3; highest to lowest). FNS = listed as federally, but not state, threatened or endangered; EX = taxon extirpated from the state totally or in its primary seasonal or breeding role but never listed as state threatened or endangered.

^c X = species or subspecies on the 1992 unprioritized list of Bird Species of Special Concern in California (CDFG 1992).

^d Species or subspecies on the 1978 list of Bird Species of Special Concern in California (Remsen 1978). 1 = “highest priority,” 2 = “second priority,” and 3 = “third priority.” Subspecies were considered for inclusion only in the “highest priority” level (Remsen 1978).

^e Species listed as threatened or endangered by state or federal law. ST = state threatened, SE = state endangered, FT = federally threatened, FE = federally endangered. The federal government no longer maintains a list of Category 1 and Category 2 candidates for consideration for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (USFWS 1996). Taxa are now considered “candidates” only if a proposed listing is likely (equivalent to former Candidate 1 status). Taxa formerly listed as Category 2 candidates (of conservation concern but information not available to support listing) with populations in California are reddish egret, white-faced ibis, fulvous whistling-duck (SW U.S. population), ferruginous hawk, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, mountain plover, elegant tern, long-billed curlew, spotted owl, San Francisco (saltmarsh) common yellowthroat, large-billed savannah sparrow, Suisun song sparrow, Samuel’s (San Pablo) song sparrow, Alameda song sparrow, and tricolored blackbird. Several other former Category 2 taxa have been listed, and one former Category 1 taxon (California black rail) has not been federally listed. See footnote ^h below regarding current USFWS designations for species of conservation concern at the federal level.

^f X = species listed by California state law as “fully protected.”

^g Natural Heritage status rankings at the S (subnational) level for California (NatureServe 2001; see for expanded definitions). 1 = critically imperiled, 2 = imperiled, 3 = vulnerable to extirpation or extinction, ? = inexact or uncertain rank (reported only for taxa considered of concern by other lists in this table), N = rank refers to non-breeding population, B = rank refers to breeding population. Ranks separated by a slash (e.g., 2/3) indicate uncertainty as to the exact status of the taxon. Ranks for populations that are “apparently secure” and “demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure” are not reported here.

^h Species on the USFWS list of “Migratory Nongame Birds of Management Concern in the United States” that have been considered of concern in USFWS Region 1 (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada). Species designations: x = on the 1995 list (USFWS 1995), X = on both the 1987 (USFWS 1987) and 1995 lists, and (x) = on only the 1987 list. The updated renamed list, Birds of Special Concern 2002, is currently being reviewed before being released to the public (T. Zimmerman/USFWS).

ⁱ Included on Partners in Flight’s WatchList for North America (Carter et al. 1996); does not include WatchList species that occur in California only as vagrants or rare migrants.

^j Included on National Audubon Society’s former “early warning” Blue List (Tate 1986); does not include taxa for which it was clear that no concern was expressed for the California population. BL = Blue-listed, SC = special concern. See Tate (1981) and Tate and Tate (1982) for Blue List status for those years.

^k California species with IUCN global conservation status ranks (listed here in descending order of conservation concern): CR = critically endangered, EN = endangered (no California species assigned to this category), VU = vulnerable, and LR = lower risk (Hilton-Taylor 2000). All California species given “lower risk” status were placed in the sub-category of “near threatened” (close to qualifying for “vulnerable”).